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SIGMA XI QUARTERLY

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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EDITORIALS

Especial attention is called to the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting which are printed in this issue. The items discussed include certain questions of great general importance on which chapters and members should be informed. Several minor amendments to the Constitution were proposed by various chapters; some were acted upon favorably and their publication herein constitutes the official notice to all chapters required to make them eligible for consideration at the next Convention. The other proposals are published for general consideration before final action is taken.

During May three new chapters of Sigma Xi were installed: that at the Mayo Foundation by Ex-president Stieglitz and the secretary, that at the University of North Carolina by President McClung and that at the University of North Dakota by Dean L. W. Jones, a member of the Executive Committee. A full account of these installations will be printed in the next issue of the *QUARTERLY*. These are the first chapters to be added to the roll of Sigma Xi since 1915. They mark the resumption of activity after the war and one may justly expect that they indicate also the inception of a new period of growth in the Society which will add to its influence and opportunities.

Sigma Xi is growing, more rapidly indeed than the man realizes who does not keep tab on the yearly increase in membership. Evidently it must gain in breadth and strength as well as in members if it is not to become merely a huge inert organization, valuable for

recording the past achievements of those it elects but lacking in power to assist them to greater accomplishments or to develop the spirit of research that its founders set as the supreme ideal. But Sigma Xi needs also coordinating influences that may bring together and unite its entire membership in their attainment of the research ideal. Its purpose involves association as well as investigation and eager effort, for are not its members "Companions in Zealous Research?" A group of separated chapters unrelated in plan and independent in action can never achieve the full ideal set forth in this motto and every chapter is obligated by its pledges to seek to realize in the fullest possible degree that contact with other parts of the Society which will give it knowledge of the general plan and active interest in it. This alone can develop unity and cooperation in the organization as a whole and make it a vital force in directing and encouraging the prosecution of research in the active chapters.

But there is another and even larger part of the Society that has been neglected, if not entirely forgotten, in the development of Sigma Xi thus far. To President Stieglitz the Society is indebted for the emphasis laid on the lost opportunity afforded by a host of inactive members, loyal to the organization and its ideals, and only needing an adequate appeal to make them virile factors in its work. Somewhat the same idea has come entirely independently to one of the inactive members himself and has led to the writing of an article published in this issue. The suggestions it contains are most timely and deserve the careful consideration of every active member. Up to this time no effort has been made to bring into relations that might be mutually helpful those companions whose zealous research has carried them beyond the limits of academic walls. To organize the inactive members and to keep them in touch with the active chapters will cost time and effort as well as some money also. The advantages have been pointed out within the circle of the active membership; the appeal comes now from without. It is the power of the active membership to determine what course shall be followed, but at least every active member is obligated to give the subject serious consideration. Is it not possible to emphasize companionship without in any way neglecting zeal in research? What can Sigma Xi do to make itself a constant inspiration in the fields where it has so many inactive members?